

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 02744 181351Z

44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 181250Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5474

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT AG

SUBJECT: ALGERIAN PRE-FERENDUM ACTIVITIES

1. PAST SEVERAL DAYS HAVE WITNESSED MASSIVE OFFICIAL EFFORT TO MOBILIZE ALGIANS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY FOR NOV 19 REFERENDUM ON CONSTITUTION. FROM GRASS ROOTS TO ALGIERS, LARGE ELEMENTS OF POPULATION HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO MEETING POINTS TO HEAR SPEECHES AND TO SHOUT THEIR SUPPORT FOR CONSTITUTION, PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE AND SOCIALISM. CAPSTONE OF THIS EFFORT IS MASS MEETING TO BE HELD IN AN ALGIERS FOOTBALL STADIUM NOV 18. CITIZENRY BEING INVITED TO MARCH TO THIS EVENT FROM VARIOUS ASSEMBLY POINTS IN CITY.

2. FOCUS REMAINS ON BOUMEDIENE. EARLIER IN WEEK, HE TOOK TO HUSTINGS IN CEREMONIES DEDICATING SOCIALIST VILLAGES IN COUNTRYSIDE AND PROPAGANDA HAS SOUGHT TO LINK YES VOTE ON CONSTITUTION WITH ENDORSEMENT ON BOUMEDIENE'S CANDIDACY FOR PRESIDENCY. WE HAVE IMPRESSION THAT THIS EFFORT MAY HAVE SUCCEEDED TOO WELL IN THAT SOME MEMBERS OF RANK AND FILE BELIEVE THAT THEIR BALLOT ON NOV 19 TO BE CAST FOR BOUMEDIENE HIMSELF RATHER THAN FOR CONSTITUTION.

3. REGIME HAS ALSO MADE MUCH OF EFFORT TO REGISTER NEW VOTERS AND TO RE-REGISTER THOSE WHO HAVE MOVED. THERE IS SPECULATION THAT PRESSURE ON CITIZENRY TO

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PAGE 02 ALGIER 02744 181351Z

VOTE WILL BE STRONGER THAN IT WAS PRIOR TO REFERENDUM

ON NATIONAL CHARTER LAST SUMMER WHEN ABSENTION RATE
SAID TO HAVE BEEN HIGH. ALGERIANS WITH WHOM WE HAVE
SPOKEN VIRTUALLY UNANIMOUS IN VIEW THAT THIS TIME IT
WOULD BE IMPOLITIC TO STAY AWAY
FROM POLLS.PARKER

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